Grants for Bihar

1824. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of grants sanctioned for Bihar, particularly for Jharkhand region, during the last three years;

(b) whether the State Government has urged the Planning Commission for additional grants for this region; and

(c) if so, what was the total grants sanctioned for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) The outlays for the Annual Plan are finalised by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Government for the State as a whole and not for any specific area of the State. The outlays sanctioned for Bihar for the last 3 years are as follows:

(Rs. crore)

Annual Plan	Outlay	Revised Outlay
1995-96	2500	972
1996-97	2143.91	1649
1997-98	2200	—

(b) and (c) Question Does not arise.

Review of the Minimum Needs Programme

1825. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed/reviewed the performance of Minimum Needs Programme initiated during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof, in terms of targets set, State-wise;

(c) the details of the outstanding performance of States under the programmes, as also the reasons for failure of some States to utilise funds provided under the programme during 1996-97; and

(d) whether careful review of the Programme has revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in some States; if so, the action proposed during 1997-98 to ensure better performance and State-wise targets set for the key elements of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) to (d) The Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme was introduced in 1996-97. It has been reviewed by the Government and financial performance assessed. No State-wise physical targets were set.

The Additional central Assisance (ACA) allocated for the BMS was released in four equal instalments during the latter half of the year 1996-97 while the last instalment was released only in March, 1997. Ninteen State Government have reported full utilisation of the funds sanctioned as ACA for BMS while others have cited paucity of time for non-utilisation of the full amount of the ACA. They have been permitted to utilise the entire ACA in the first 6 months of the current financial year.

The review of the implementation of the Programme has also revealed that several States under provided for the BMS at the revised estimates stage in 1996-97 even though they had intimated that adequate provisions were being made in conformity with the guidelines issued to them. The programme envisages fixation of financial and physical targets sector-wise and a joint monitoring mechanism between the Planning Commission, concerned Central Ministries and State Governments. An interministerial Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the work in respect of BMS. Details are being